

St. John's Academy (Carne School)
Columbus St. at Duke Street
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-450

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D.C.

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St. John's Academy (Carne School)
SE. Corner Duke and Columbus Streets
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-450

St. John's Academy (Carne School)

Original Owner: Mr. Edward Stabler, II(?)

Present Owner: Mrs. Northrop and Miss Ficklin

Present Use: Apartments

Date of Erection: Nucleus was a flounder house, probably late 18th Century

Number of Stories: 3

Description: The original unit of the flounder type was greatly enlarged about 1850 and developed in the Greek Revival style. A large octagonal cupola crowns the gable roof and there is an overhanging bracket cornice below. A one-story porch overlooks a pleasant garden in the rear. At a slightly later period, probably in connection with the use of the building for school purposes, a wing was developed along Columbus Street resulting in a facade with overall length of one hundred feet.

History: St. John's Academy, a military training school for boys is reported to date from 1833. It was founded by the brothers, William F. and Richard L. Carne. Mrs. Mary G. Powell in her

History of Old Alexandria relates how drilling of the cadets in the

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public streets became a feature of the town and that the school had a fine reputation throughout the country. The School appears to have been closed for the duration of the Civil War.

By Act of the General Assembly of March 29, 1870, the Governor of Virginia was authorized to lend to St. John's Academy in Alexandria a sufficient number of arms to enable its students to drill as volunteer militia.

St. John's Academy was legally incorporated in 1894. Incorporators were Richard L. Carnes, James R. Caton, Lawrence W. Corbett, William F. Carne, Michael B. Harlow, Samuel G. Brent and Leonard Marbury. The Academy did not long survive issuance of its charter.

An echo from the historic past came to light in the "50 Years Ago" column of the Alexandria Gazette for April 14, of the current year - bearing the heading "Old Students of St. John's Academy". The extract read:

The rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, corner of King and Washington streets, were crowded last evening with the former students of St. John's Academy to make arrangements for Home-coming Week. The meeting was called to order by Dr. George T. Klipstein. It was decided that a register be placed in the store of Mr. R. W. Arnold where all the old students might register during that week. A committee consisting of R. W. Arnold, S. E. Lindsey, Fred Schneider and F. J. Paff were appointed to secure a hall and make other necessary arrangements for a banquet to be held April 29 at which time there will be a reunion of all the old students.

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References: James R. Caton, Legislative Chronicles of the City of Alexandria, Alexandria, 1933, p. 183

Mary G. Powell, The History of Old Alexandria, Virginia, Richmond, 1928, p. 157

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Approved:

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